

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11

NSC-05 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-01 /068 W

-----011938 100151Z /73

R 091137Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9048

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM

SUBJ: BANGKOK NEWSPAPER ON GOLDEN TRIANGLE

1. BANGKOK DAILY, THE NATION REVIEW, ON PAST TWO SUNDAYS HAS CARRIED LONG ARTICLES ON NARCOTICS SITUATION IN NORTHERN THAILAND AND BURMA. FIRST ARTICLE ON JULY 30 IS A SOMEWHAT DISTORTED REHASH OF THE TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JULY 12-13, 1977 SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL. THE ARTICLE INCLUDES THE VARIOUS STATISTICS CITED BY WITNESSES, INCLUDING THOSE BY THAI POLICE COLONEL ON PAGE 258 OF THE COMMITTEE REPORT. ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT "TEAM OF US OFFICIALS ALSO MET SUA LEADER KHUN SA IN HIS STRONGHOLD" DURING CODEL WOLFF APRIL, 1977 VISIT TO THAILAND. (THIS IS REFERENCE TO MEETING BETWEEN CONGRESSIONAL STAFF AND KHUN SA.)

2. SECOND ARTICLE AUGUST 6 IS AN ATTEMPT AT HUMOROUS ACCOUNT OF BURMESE INSURGENCIES AND DRUG TRAFFICKING ENTITLED "A FABLE." THRUST OF ARTICLE IS THAT INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO CURRENT BURMESE GOVERNMENT NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORTS WILL RESULT IN DRIVING THE

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VARIOUS MINORITY INSURGENCY GROUPS INTO THE HANDS OF THE BCP RESULTING IN BCP EXPANSION, DESTABILIZATION OF BURMA AND NORTHERN THAILAND, AND CONTINUED FLOW OF HEROIN TO EUROPE AND THE US. MUCH OF ARGUMENTATION IN ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE BASED ON ROBERT SCHWAB'S LONG COMMENTARY, BEGINNING ON PAGE 185 OF THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

3. COMMENT: EDITOR OF NATION REVIEW INDICATED TO EMBOFF
THAT ARTICLES MERELY POINT UP THE COMPLEXITY OF THE
NARCOTICS PROBLEM. HE INDICATED THAT POINT OF ARTICLES
WAS THAT MAJOR, INTERNATIONALLY-BACKED PROGRAM IN BURMA
COULD HAVE RAMIFICATIONS FOR INSURGENCY IN THAILAND.
ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWSPAPERS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO22717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780326-1091
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1785897
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGKOK NEWSPAPER ON GOLDEN TRIANGLE
TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93ccea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014